

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 INR-07 PRS-01 /024 W

----- 070708

P R 101730Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5453

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USIA FOR IEU, ICS/E

STATE FOR EUR/SOV

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AMERICAN HOME:

WEEKLY RPT

REF: A. MOSCOW 14042

B. USIA 24460

1. REF TAH VISIT TO ZAPOROZH'YE WRITERS' UNION 28 SEPTEMBER, WAS ATTENDED BY EXHIBIT CAO, SIX TAH PERSONNEL, AND ONE SOVIET ESCORT FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY STAFF, AS WELL AS SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE 12-MEMBER WRITERS' UNION CHAPTER. DURING COURSE OF VERY CORDIAL DISCUSSION, A GENTLEMEN WHO WAS INTRODUCED AS THE CHAPTER SECRETARY, JOINED THE GROUP AND PROMPTLY ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE FLOOR. BEGINNING WITH A VERBOSE PRELUDE ON THE OPULENCE OF UKRAINIAN LITERATURE, HE ABRUPTLY CHANGED PACE AND, TO THE SURPRISE OF ALL PRESENT, STATED THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT OUR GUIDES COULDN'T STICK TO THE TECHNICAL SUBJECT OF THE EXHIBIT, BUT TALKED ABOUT "IRRELEVANT STUFF LIKE SOLZHENITSYN," WHICH THEY WERE NOT COMPETENT TO TALK ABOUT. GUIDES FROM THE TAH GROUP POLITELY REBUTTED HIS STATEMENT, WHICH STIRRED RATHER FEEBLE SUPPORT FROM HIS STARTLED COLLEAGUES, BY NOTING THAT THE GUIDES, MOST OF WHO ARE WELL-VERSED IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE, DO NOT INITIATE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE STANDS, BUT ONLY ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED

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BY SOVIET VISITORS. THE SOVIET CHAMBER ESCORT, SEEING THAT

EVERYONE, SOVIETS INCLUDED, WAS EMBARRASSED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD COME UP, CLEARED THE AIR BY STEERING THE CONVERSATION ONTO ANOTHER TOPIC. THE WRITERS' UNION IDEOLOGUE SHORTLY THEREAFTER EXCUSED HIMSELF TO CATCH A TRAIN, AFTER WHICH THE VISIT AGAIN ASSUMED ITS CORDIAL MOOD.

2. THE NEXT MORNING, CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVE KUZMENKO, WHO IS TRADITIONALLY THE VEHICLE OF GUIDE CRITICISM, IN CONFIDENCE TO THE EXHIBIT CAO, OFFERED HIS APOLOGIES FOR THE EVENING SAYING HE REGRETTED NOT HAVING BEEN PRESENT. EXHIBIT CAO ASSURED HIM THAT THE OTHER SOVIETS PRESENT HAD BEEN VERY POLITE AND THAT ONE PERSONALITY HAD NOT SPOILED THE PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS.

3. NO FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO DATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW14578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750353-0443
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751061/aaaaccpi.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 14042
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGES: TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AMERICAN HOME: WEEKLY RPT
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006